



Leader's Report

25 March 2026

Report of the Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Leader's report to Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To receive the report of the Leader of Council.

REPORT

1.0 Cabinet

1.1 Information on Cabinet matters is provided in the minutes from the Cabinet meetings held 10 February 2026 later in this agenda.

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently.

2.1 No urgent Cabinet decisions have been taken since the last Leader's Report

3.0 Leader's Comments

3.1 With the Budget complete, council activity has moved rapidly on to a reconsideration of the Council Plan and further work on strengthening and extending the partnerships which underpin the health, well-being and prosperity of our district. As a council we celebrated a special council giving Freedom of the City to World War II veteran Richard Brock, which was attended by the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff as well as many other veterans, friends and councillors.

3.2 Council Plan Progress

Cabinet and the Senior Leadership team have met to finish their discussion of the current Council Plan, highlighting new achievements and reconsidering the

priorities set in 2023 in the light of the progress of Local Government Reorganisation. Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked for their response and will meet this week having received a very rough draft of the Cabinet/SLT discussion. All Members are asked to consider in particular the priorities, in terms both of projects and of policies, that we should pursue until unitarisation occurs. The final redraft will come to next Full Council.

3.3 **Scrutiny**

I was pleased to attend Overview and Scrutiny sub committee for a detailed discussion of the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Protocol. The final plan looks to extend the opportunity for Scrutiny to consider key decisions and ensure Scrutiny comments are contained within the body of cabinet reports. The Chief Executive and I attended Lancashire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee considering the Get Lancashire Working report.

3.4 **Local Government Re-organisation**

The LGR Working Party has made progress with considering the Governance Review of currently unparished areas. With the help of our Elections Officer and experience from elsewhere, we now have a suitable process to bring to Full Council for approval. District Leaders met to consider progress over LGR transition arrangements, Adult Services in new unitaries and district participation in future Joint Committees.

3.5 **Eden**

This month's development have included two new elements: firstly the Eden team have begun more detailed work on the two Realms and whilst understanding that most details will be a commercial secret until the opening, we have asked for some elements to be shared. The Platform has also hosted an Eden-related event for local supply chain businesses to present their services. The Eden Garden will be part of the Chelsea Flower Show in May this year so should be installed on the Eden site within three months.

3.6 **Housing**

There have been a number of meetings related to the Skerton site housing and the wider future Mainway development. Following the Pre Market Engagement a number of alternatives have been presented for building out the sites either separately or together. Further work has been done on the funding and officers have met several times with Homes England. Support has been gained from the LGA Council House building Support Service, designed to provide advice on over-coming the difficulties presented to HRA by new developments. CHoSS has produced a report and recommendations for further progress. Preparations for the Social Housing Regulator inspection in April are well under way. I have met with the Mainway Tenants Regeneration group to discuss their concerns.

3.7 **Partnership Work**

The work of the Civic Universities Agreement group has continued with a civic dinner. I was unable to attend but my deputy, on his first week back to work, was able to pick this one up for me. The Memorandum of Understanding is now drafted along with the future programme so the partnership will shortly begin on its collaborative work. This year's meeting of the Lancashire Climate Action

Network took place at Cumbria University and was very well organised by Lancaster city council. The event was well-attended and involved a number of sessions particularly featuring young people's involvement.

3.8 District activity

There were a number of interesting and challenging local events this month. North Lancashire Food Futures which is supported by Lancaster city, held a well-attended planning day at the Storey for their bid to gain a coveted Gold Award from Sustainable Food Places. Their themes of increasing food justice through improving access to healthy affordable food, tackling food waste, strengthening food supply chains and making food procurement more sustainable, all fit well within the policies and ambitions of the city council. The Eric Morecambe Motion group has continued to meet to co-ordinate council activities for the celebration weekend. Spark Lancaster organised the Electech group alongside our officers, had its first event at the Storey attracting over 400 visitors in two days. It promised to be a "hands on festival celebrating Science, Tech engineering, Arts and Maths" and definitely was full of energy, enthusiasm and excitement. Lit Fest launched its theme of "The Rights of Nature" and number of events took place this month bringing a powerful cultural slant onto the work of both the Climate Action Network and Food Futures.



Spark Lancaster

4.0 Decisions

The following decisions were scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 10 March 2026

Rent and Service Charge Setting Policy
Projects and Performance Quarter 3 2025-26
Strategic Risk Management

Lancaster Canal Quarter Early Phase Housing Proposals - Procurement and Delivery Matters
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There have been no Officer Delegated Key Decisions taken since the last Leader's Report

The following Individual Cabinet Member Decisions have been taken since the last Leader's report.

ICMD 27	Procurement of Six Refuse Collection Vehicles for Mixed Waste Collection	Published on: Cllr Paul Hart Taken By: 17.03.26
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Background Papers

Cabinet agenda of the meeting held on 10 March 2026.